

**CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2008
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on July 8, 2008 at 1:00pm at the Judicial Council Conference Center in San Francisco, CA.

Members Present: Quentin Kopp, Chairman
 Fran Florez
 David Crane
 Rod Diridon, Sr.
 Curt Pringle
 Lynn Schenk
 Kirk Lindsey
 Thomas Umberg

Members Absent: TJ Stapleton

Opening Comments

Chairman Kopp welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

**Staff Presentation on Final Bay Area to Central Valley High Speed Train
Program EIR/EIS**

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt highlighted changes made to the Final Program EIR/EIS.

Public comment on Final EIR/EIS

Greg Conlon

Former President of CPUC, Atherton, CA

Mr. Conlon stated he fully supports the HST project. Mr. Conlon suggested the Authority consider trenching the residential areas along the Caltrain Corridor.

Tim Frank

Sierra Club of California

Mr. Frank stated the Sierra Club (SC) had concerns regarding the Draft Program EIR/EIS, specifically concerning the Altamont Pass. Mr. Frank stated the SC encourages a fair assessment of the potential of the Altamont Pass. Mr. Frank also stated the SC is pleased with the work the Authority has done with regards to the grasslands and farmlands and feels that the HST system would help California and the nation fight against global warming.

Gavin Newsom

Mayor, City of San Francisco

Mayor Newsom stated the City of San Francisco unanimously supports the HSR project. The City recognizes the need for competitive modes of transportation throughout the state and the country. Mayor Newsom also stated the San Francisco International Airport supports the project as well.

Brian Dykes

Transbay Joint Powers Authority

Mr. Dykes stated the Transbay Joint Powers Authority supports the HSR project and looks forward to working cooperatively with the HSRA to utilize the maximum rail capacity of the Transbay Terminal.

Dean Chu

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

Mr. Chu stated MTC supports the HSR project in California and the certification of the Final EIR/EIS. MTC reaffirmed its support in October 2007 by adopting MTC Resolution 3829 which endorsed the Pacheco Pass alignment. MTC also supports AB 3034.

Kurt Evans

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Mr. Evans requested the Board certify the Final EIR/EIS as recommended by Authority staff and strongly supports the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment.

Robert Doty

Cal-Train

Mr. Doty stated he was representing three transit agencies through a joint powers board, San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Francisco counties and the San Mateo Transportation Authority, all of whom support the HSR project and the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment.

Aaron Peskin

President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Mr. Peskin stated the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the HSR project, the certification of the Final EIR/EIS and the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment. The Board also supports AB 3034.

Bena Chang

Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Ms. Chang stated the Silicon Valley Leadership Group supports the certification of the Final EIR/EIS and the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment.

Bruce Gwynne

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP)

Mr. Gwynne stated the DLRP provided comment on the Draft EIR/EIS and felt the Final EIR/EIS was comprehensive and fully responsive with the respect of farmland protection. Mr. Gwynne also stated DLRP looks forward to working cooperatively with the Authority in assuring farmland conservation as it is outlined in the Final EIR/EIS.

Daniel McNamara

California Rail Foundation

Mr. McNamara stated the California Rail Foundation has supported the HSR project for the past 20 years but does not believe the Pacheco Pass is feasible due to the recent letter from Union Pacific regarding sharing of right-of-way. Mr. McNamara recommended the board recall the Final EIR/EIS.

Len Conly

Member of Sierra Club, representing self

Mr. Conly stated he did not support the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment because it would promote sprawl.

Jim Lazarus

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Lazarus urged the Authority to certify the Final EIR/EIS for the Pacheco Pass alignment because it is the most cost effective and environmentally sound.

Adam Montgomery

Silicon Valley Association of Realtors

Mr. Montgomery stated the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors supports the certification of the Final EIR/EIS and the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment.

Eugene Skoropowski

Capitol Corridor

Mr. Skoropowski stated Capitol Corridor supports the Final EIR/EIS and the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment and also supports the development of the Altamont Route as a secondary alignment.

John Diamante

Threshold International Center for Environmental Renewal and Friends of the Railway (North Bay – Redwood Empire)

Mr. Diamante stated he supported the certification of the Final EIR/EIS.

Stuart Flashman

Mr. Flashman stated he was representing the Planning and Conservation League, California Rail Foundation, Transportation Solutions Legal Defense and Education Fund, Bay Rail Alliance and Mountain Lion Foundation. Mr. Flashman stated his main concern is with the Union Pacific letter and also stated he believed the Final EIR/EIS should be withdrawn and rewritten so that there are clear definitions of corridors and right-of-ways and the proper studies are conducted for both.

Mark Herbert**Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's Office**

Mr. Herbert read a letter of support for the HSR project from Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

Emily Rusch**CALPIRG**

Ms. Rusch stated CALPIRG fully supports the HSR project.

Arthur Ringham**Atherton, CA**

Mr. Ringham stated he believed track sharing with Caltrain is impractical and suggested the HSR project avoid using Caltrain right-of-ways.

Rosemary Maulbetsch**Atherton, CA**

Ms. Maulbetsch stated she believed the HSR project would disrupt the unity and quality of life of the 12-15 communities through which the train would pass.

James Janz**Mayor, Atherton, CA**

Mr. Janz stated the City of Atherton does not support the HSR project going through the city.

Jim Bigelow**Redwood City-San Mateo County and Menlo Park Chambers**

Mr. Bigelow stated the Redwood City, San Mateo County and Menlo Park Chambers all fully support the certification of the Final EIR/EIS, the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment and Assembly bill AB 3034.

Mary Renner**San Francisco, CA**

Ms. Renner stated she supports the HSR project.

David Schonbrunn
TRANSDEF

Mr. Schonbrunn stated he does not believe the Final EIR/EIS is accurate in its study of the Altamont Pass and Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignments. Mr. Schonbrunn stated he believed that an accurate evaluation of the Altamont alignment would determine that it has fewer environmental impacts and therefore under CEQA should have been selected as the preferred alternative. Mr. Schonbrunn stated he believes the Final EIR/EIS should be redone.

Anna Stern
San Francisco, CA

Ms. Stern stated she felt the HSR project is long overdue.

Roger Bazeley
San Francisco, CA

Mr. Bazeley stated he supports the HSR project.

Robert Allen
Livermore, CA

Mr. Allen stated he sent a letter to the Authority stating he believes the words "BART, or other" be added to Agenda Item 10, before "...regional rail project".

Andy Cohen
Mayor, Menlo Park, CA

Mr. Cohen stated the cities of Atherton and Menlo Park held a joint study session and concluded that the least intrusive alternative for the HSR to pass through their cities would be a trench to maintain the quality of life for residents in surrounding communities.

Barbara Pierce
Redwood City, CA

Ms. Pierce stated she supports the certification of the Final EIR/EIS and the Pacheco Pass as the preferred alignment.

Martin Engel
Menlo Park, CA

Mr. Engel stated he supports trenching through Atherton and Menlo Park to maintain the quality of life for residents in surrounding communities.

Walter Strakosch
Sacramento, CA

Mr. Strakosch stated he submitted a letter to the Board and would summarize its contents. Mr. Strakosch stated he submitted comments in September and

November 2007 regarding the Draft EIR/EIS and did not agree with the replies he received regarding those comments.

Dave Snyder

San Francisco Planning and Urban Resources Association (SPUR)

Mr. Snyder stated SPUR supports the certification of the Final EIR/EIS.